

STARBLAZER

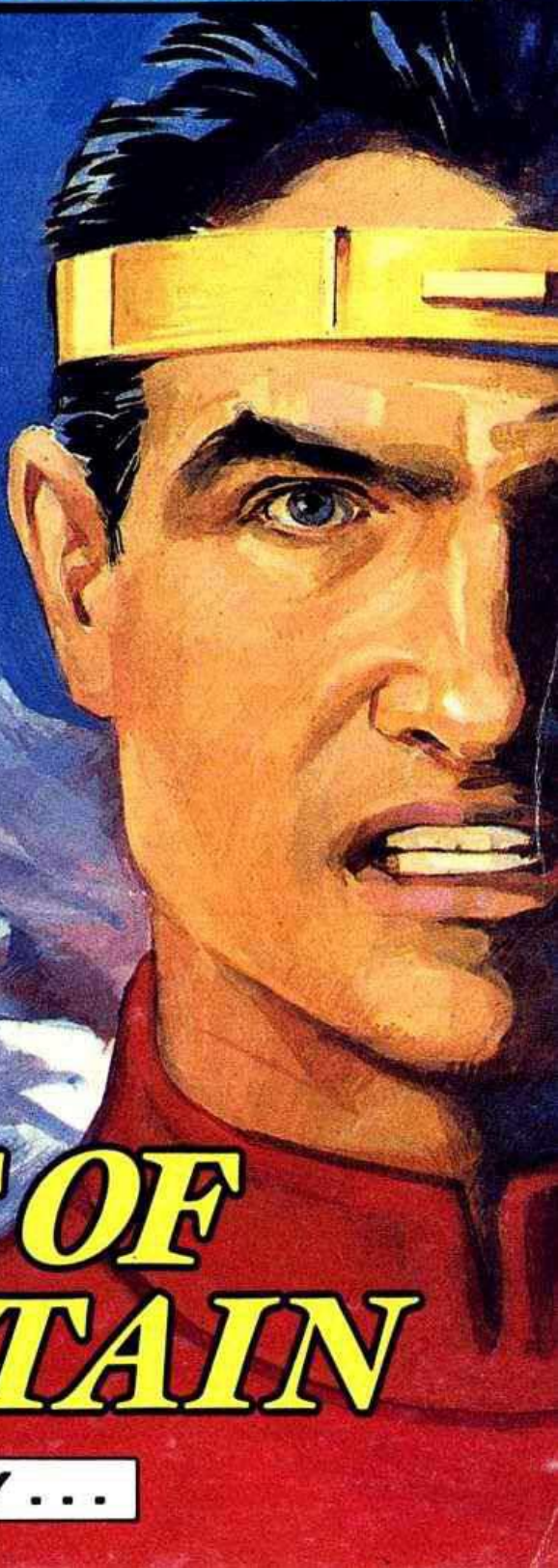
FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No.228

30p



THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

... A CARTER STORY ...



We at "Starblazer" want to bring you the very best in Fantasy Fiction. To do that we need *your* help.

So that we can produce the kind of stories you want to read, please fill in the questionnaire on this page and send it to "Starblazer", D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 185 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HS.

If you don't want to cut your issue of "Starblazer", you can copy the questionnaire onto a sheet of paper.

And there's a chance to win a full-colour print of one of our new-style wraparound covers!

The senders of the ten letters which we judge to be the most informative will each receive one of the prints. We want to hear from you NOW!

Name **Age**

Address

What kind of science fiction do you most enjoy?
Please tick appropriate boxes.
If you dislike any type of story, place a cross in the box.

SUPERHEROES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FANTASY			
DUNGEONS			SWORD AND			
AND DRAGONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SORCERY			
			POST	<input type="checkbox"/>	HORROR	
			HOLOCAUST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STAR WARS
			ADVENTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DR. WHO
			HUMOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MYSTERY

Where do you normally buy your STARBLAZER? _____

Which is your favourite STARBLAZER story? _____

Which is your favourite character? _____

Which is your favourite science fiction movie? _____

Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER... good or bad? _____

THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

ALL THE WORLDS IN THE FEDERATION HAD ENOUGH NUCLEAR DEVICES TO WIPE ALL THE OTHERS OUT MANY TIMES OVER. FINALLY THE UNITED PLANETS ORGANISATION PASSED A RESOLUTION BANNING THE MANUFACTURE OF THESE WEAPONS OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION — THE M.A.D. CLAUSE.

THIS, HOWEVER, MADE NO DIFFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE ORDINARY POLICEMAN. AS ONE CHECKING THE HOLD OF AN INTER-PLANETARY CRAFT ON SPACEPORT BINGHAM, DISCOVERED.



A STOWAWAY CAUSED CONFUSION BY SWITCHING ON THE FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEM.



IN THE PORT COMMAND CENTRE —

STOWAWAYS ON A MINERAL SHIP. THEY'VE GRABBED TWO COPS AND ARE THREATENING TO KILL THEM UNLESS THEY GET FREE PASSAGE.

A T U



* SLANG FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.





CARTER PRODUCED A LEO
ISSUE LASER BLASTER
FROM BEHIND HIS BACK.



DON'T SHOOT — I HAVE
INFORMATION. WE — WE
CAN DO A DEAL!

NO DEALS, BUT
BEGIN TALKING!

LATER —

... THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING THAT
CONTRAVENES M.A.D. AGREEMENT.
GIVE ME ASYLUM AND I'LL TELL YOU
WHERE.

HE WANTS ASYLUM BADLY
ENOUGH TO LIE THROUGH HIS
BACK TEETH!

I KNOW! BUT WHAT IF HE'S NOT
LYING? THIS MUST GO
STRAIGHT UP TO GOVERNMENT
LEVEL.

GOOD! THAT LETS ME OUT. I'M A
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
— NOT A POLITICIAN.

AT AN EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING LATER THAT DAY —



A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO SELECT THE TEAM...

THIS IS PER TORSSEN, TOP PHYSICS GRADUATE FROM KIRKTON UNIVERSITY, SPECIALISES IN SCIENTIFIC WARFARE RESEARCH... AND HAS SOLD CLASSIFIED MATERIAL FOR HIS OWN GAIN... SECURITY RISK!



THIS IS KORV ELGEX, MOTHER WAS FROM SARTOG, THE PLANET IN QUESTION. HE WAS BORN THERE, SPEAKS THE TONGUE LIKE A NATIVE. KNOWS THE AREA IN QUESTION VERY WELL. PERFECT GUIDE FOR THE EXPEDITION. HE IS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.



CHANCE VARLEY. LONG CRIMO RECORD. OUT ON PROBATION. EXPERT ON ELECTRONIC SECURITY SYSTEMS. COULD BE ESSENTIAL ON SUCH AN UNDERCOVER OPERATION AS THIS.



THEN WE NEED A LEO TO ACCOMPANY THEM.

AN EXPENDABLE ONE...
SEND CARTER.



CARTER WAS INFORMED —

I AM NOT A NURSEMAID
AND I DON'T GET
INVOLVED IN POLITICS.
THIS SHOULD BE A
MILITARY OPERATION
NOT A LAW
ENFORCEMENT JOB.

THINGS GOT OFF
TO A BAD START
THE NEXT DAY —

CARTER! SHUT IT... YOU'RE
GOING TO SARTOG OR THE
ISOCUBES ON PETERWOOD MOOR!

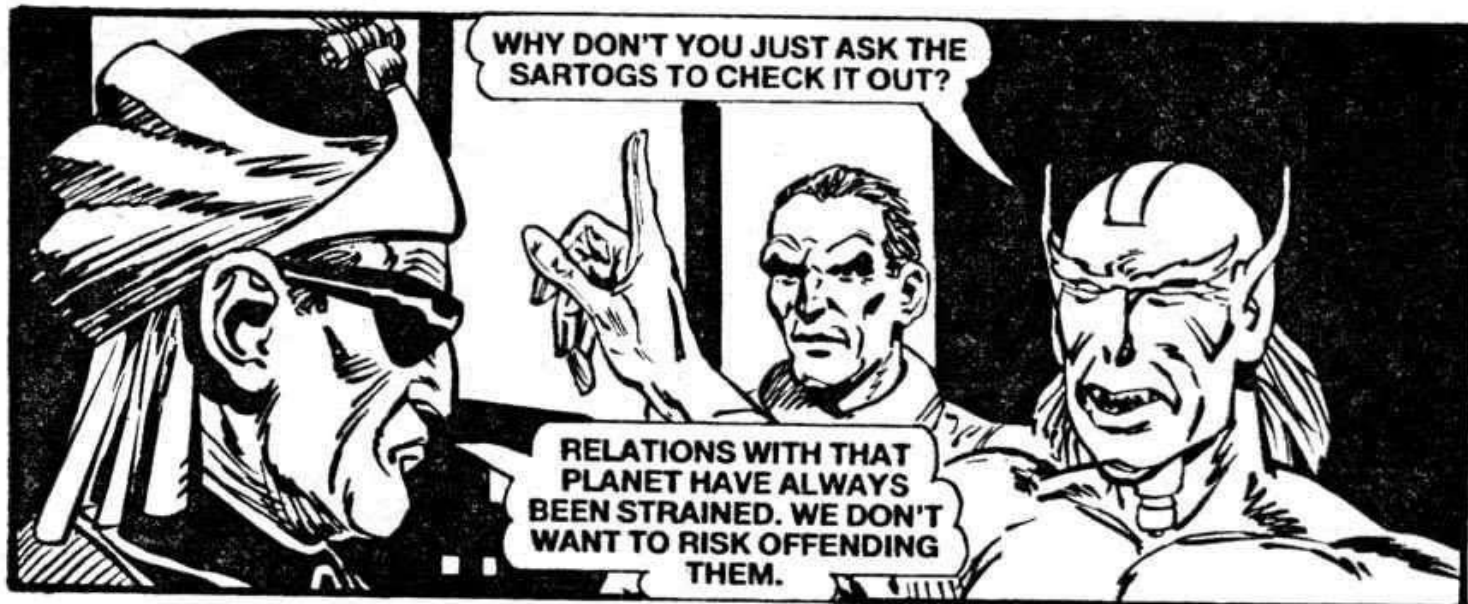
YOU! YOU MURDERING
SCUMBAG... I'LL KILL
YOU, MARVON!



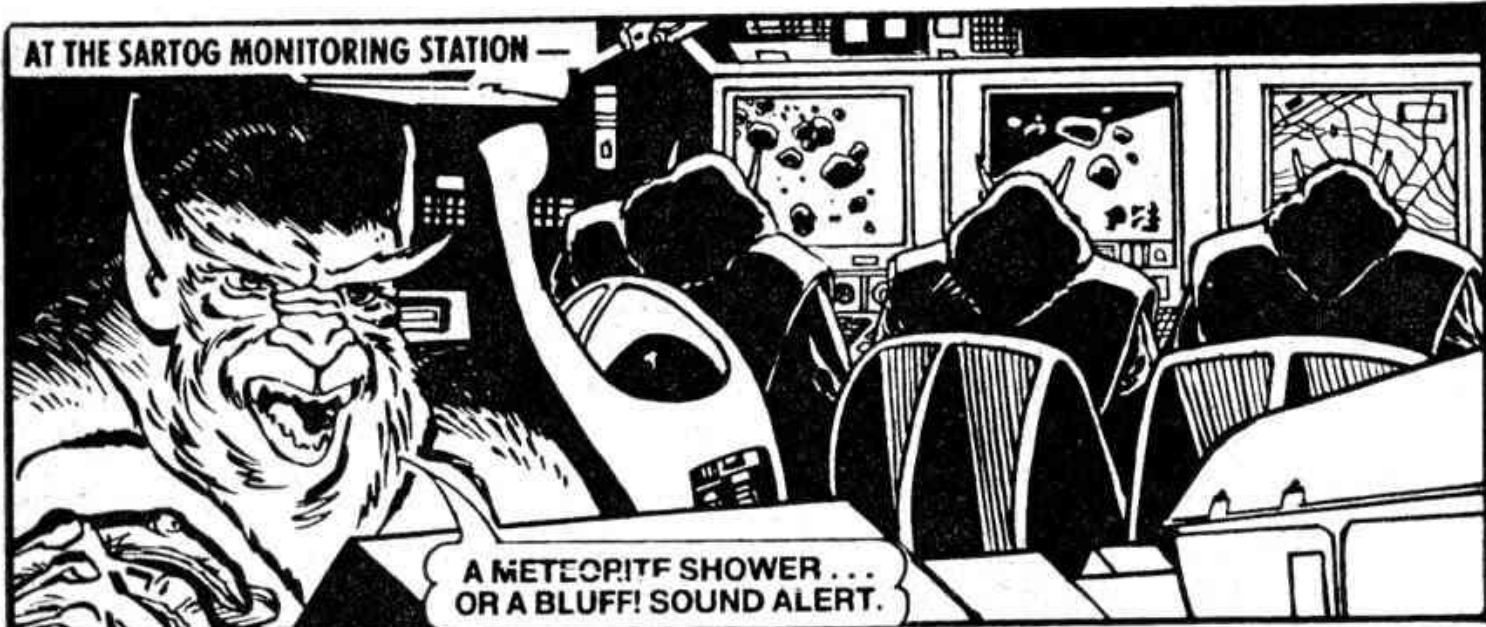
THE NAME'S VARLEY!

I'D KNOW YOU
ANYWHERE, YOU
MURDERING RAT!

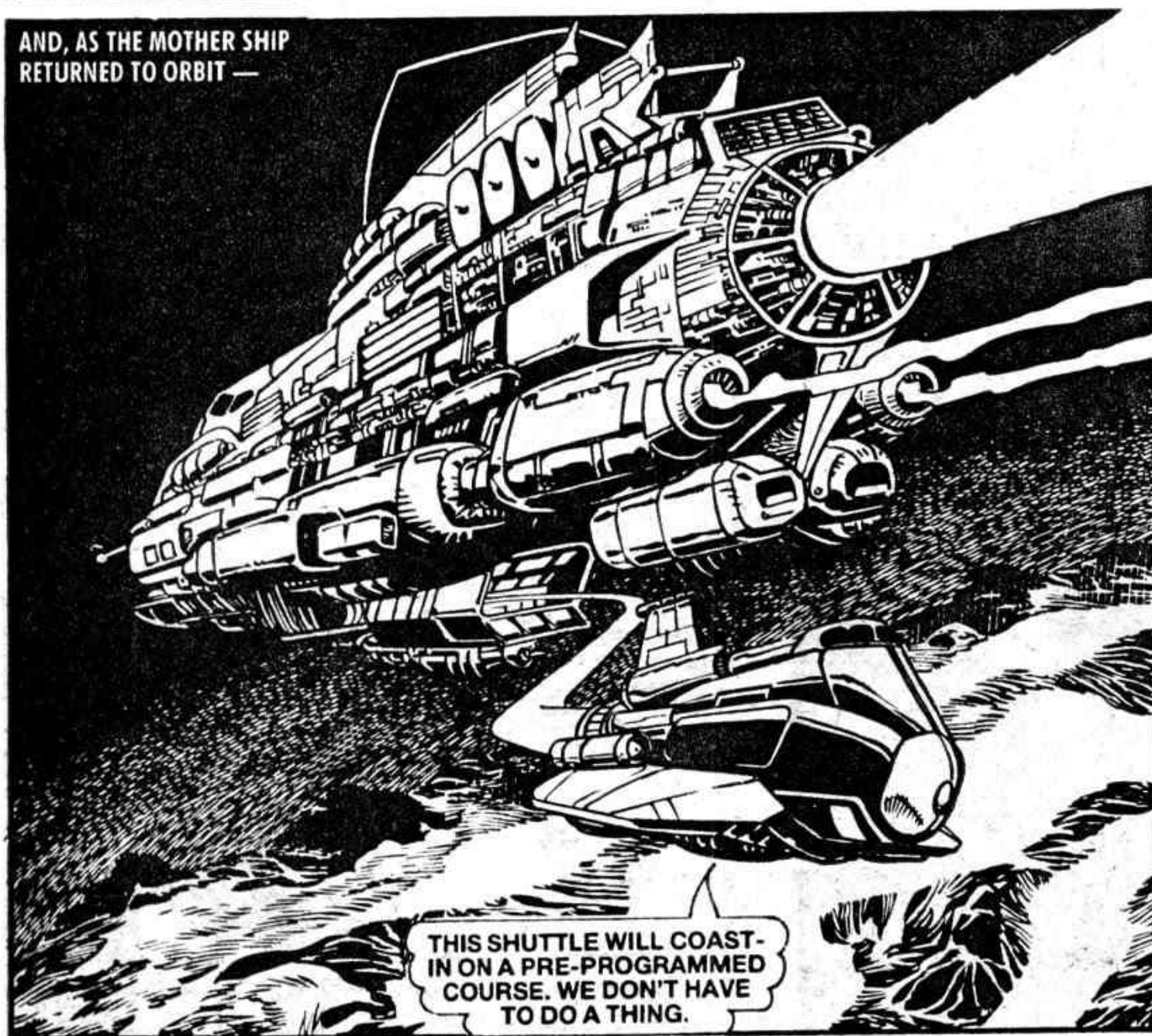




AT THE SARTOG MONITORING STATION —



AND, AS THE MOTHER SHIP
RETURNED TO ORBIT —



AT SARTOG GUARD CONTROL —



SCOUR THE IMMEDIATE AREA. THAT METEORITE SHOWER COULD BE A COVER FOR AN ILLEGAL ENTRY. IT'S OUR JOB TO COVER EVERY POSSIBILITY NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT.



SPOT ON! NICE BIT OF PROGRAMMING ...

OKAY — OUT! WE HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AND NOT A MOMENT MORE. LET'S MOVE.

MARK XXXII



SO FAR SO GOOD! KNOW WHERE WE ARE, ELGEX?

YES ... AT THE FOOT OF ICE MOUNTAIN.

AS THE TEAM CLIMBED —



BELOW —



THE PARTY HAD
BEEN SPOTTED —

ALERT!
AREA 4F!

— BUT THE SPOTTERS
HAD BEEN SPOTTED.

IN THE NAME OF —
NOOOO!

ABNORMS!





**ELGEX REPORTED IN USING
HIS NATIVE TONGUE —**



WHATEVER IT IS BETWEEN YOU TWO — FORGET IT. WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THIS TRIP ... BECAUSE I THINK WE'VE BEEN TOLD LESS THAN THE TRUTH.



AT THE SARTOG GUARD CONTROL —

THERE HASN'T BEEN A CHECK FROM THE PATROL SINCE THE ABNORM REPORT.



SEND OUT SOME PROBE-SPHERES. I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL.

AS CARTER'S TEAM MOVED HIGHER —

WHAT'S GOING ON, CARTER? WHY AREN'T WE WORKING WITH THE SARTOG S ON THIS?

DON'T ASK ME ... I'M JUST OBEYING ORDERS.









THE GROUP SPLIT UP ...

I DON'T LIKE THIS, TORSEN. WE'VE BEEN CONNED! WE COULD ALL GET KILLED.

WE HAVE NO OPTION — WE'RE ALL CRIMINALS AND THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN.

BUT ELGEX'S COMPLAINING HAD ALREADY DONE DAMAGE —

GETTING A READING QUITE NEAR ...

BEEP

A SPEECH PATTERN — ABNORMS DON'T TALK!









BUT CARTER ARRIVED —





AT THE SARTOG GUARD CONTROL



CARTER'S TEAM WERE NEARING THE COMPLEX ON ICE MOUNTAIN —





THERE, MY FRIENDS,
IS OUR WAY IN . . .

WHAT? BUT — IT'S JUST
ANOTHER WATERFALL!

IT'S NOT FROZEN!

EXACTLY, TORSSEN. SO
IT MUST BE HEATED —
PROBABLY BY WASTE FROM
THE COMPLEX.

IT'LL BE GUARDED —
PROBABLY
ELECTRONICALLY!

THAT'S MY DEPARTMENT!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK . . .







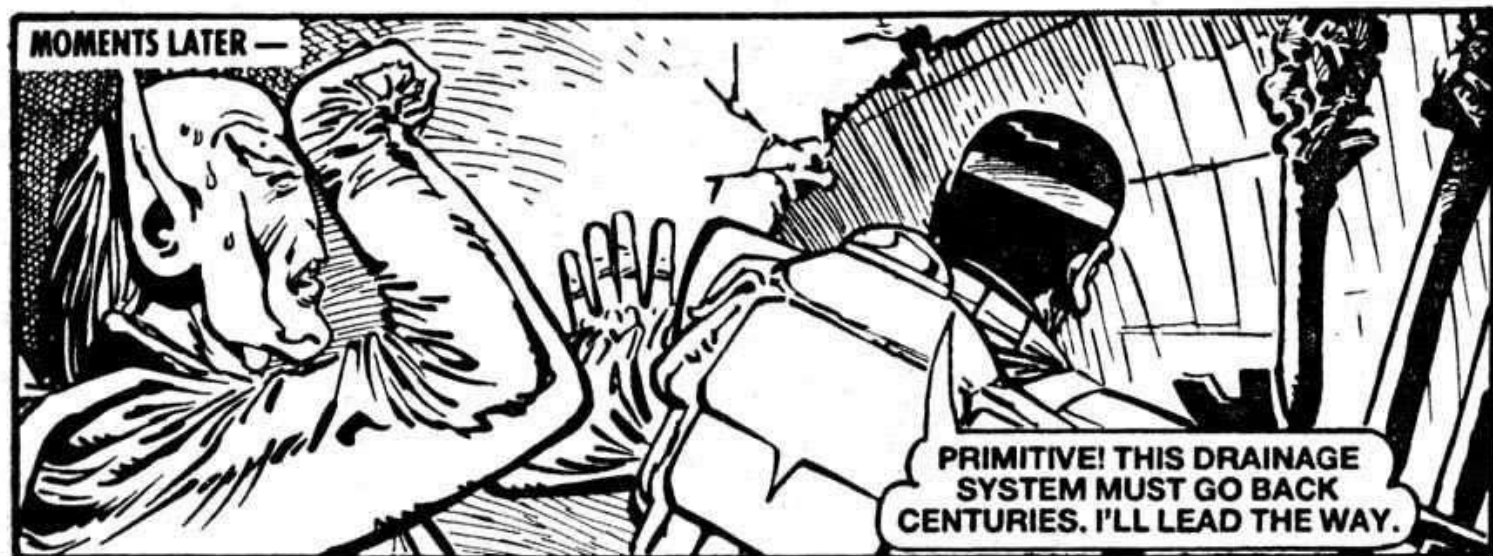
WELL? HAVE I EARNED MY
KEEP, CARTER? WE'RE ALL
STILL IN ONE PIECE.

NOT BAD FOR STARTERS,
VARLEY. BUT WE'VE A LONG
WAY TO GO YET.



OH, NO! THAT'S ALL WE
NEED. THAT GRILLE COULD
BE ELECTRIFIED!

WITH WATER FLOWING
THROUGH IT? USE YOUR HEAD,
ELGEX. BETWEEN US WE CAN
TEAR OUT THAT GRILLE.

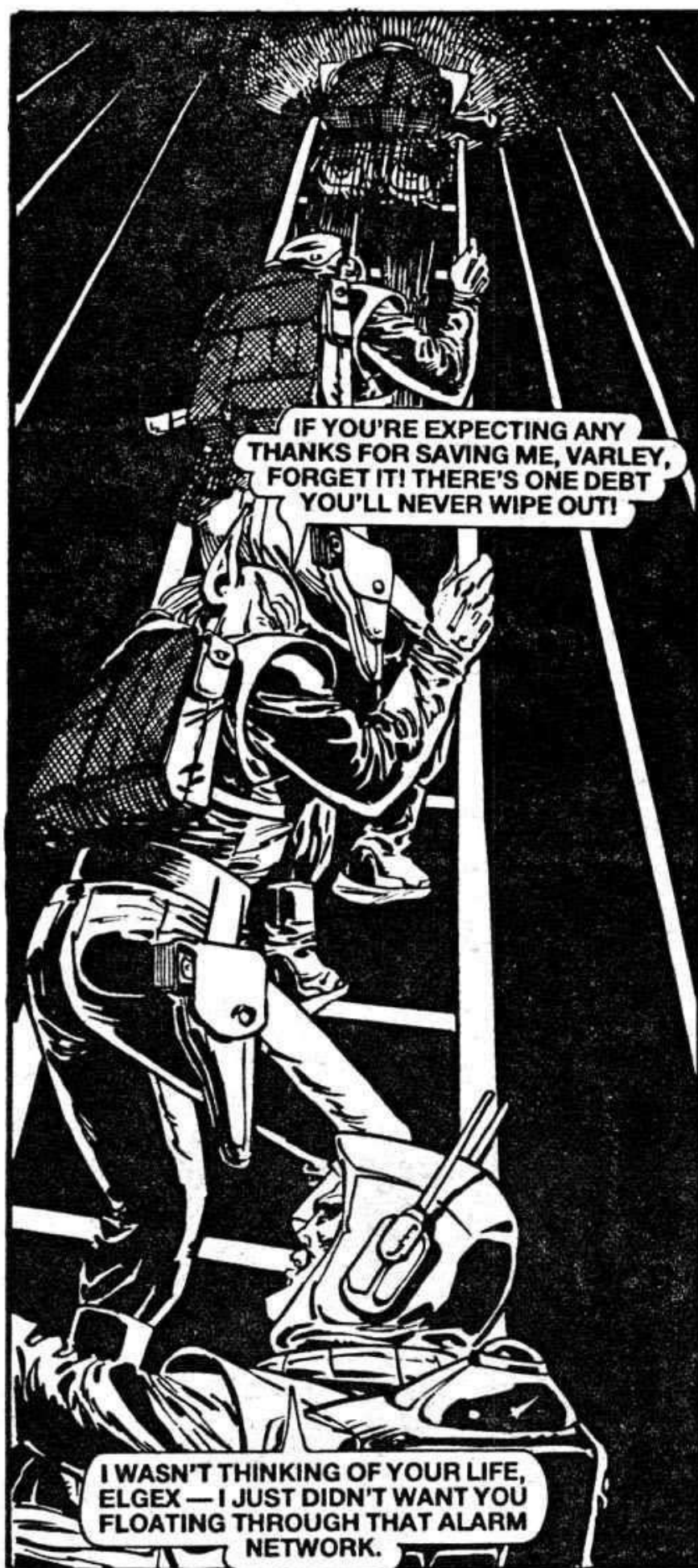


MOMENTS LATER —

PRIMITIVE! THIS DRAINAGE
SYSTEM MUST GO BACK
CENTURIES. I'LL LEAD THE WAY.









OPEN ACCESS SHAFT
ALL THE WAY UP.

BUT HOW DO
WE GET UP?



THE ANSWER CAME IN A WAY
THEY DIDN'T EXPECT — OR
WANT!

WHA —?

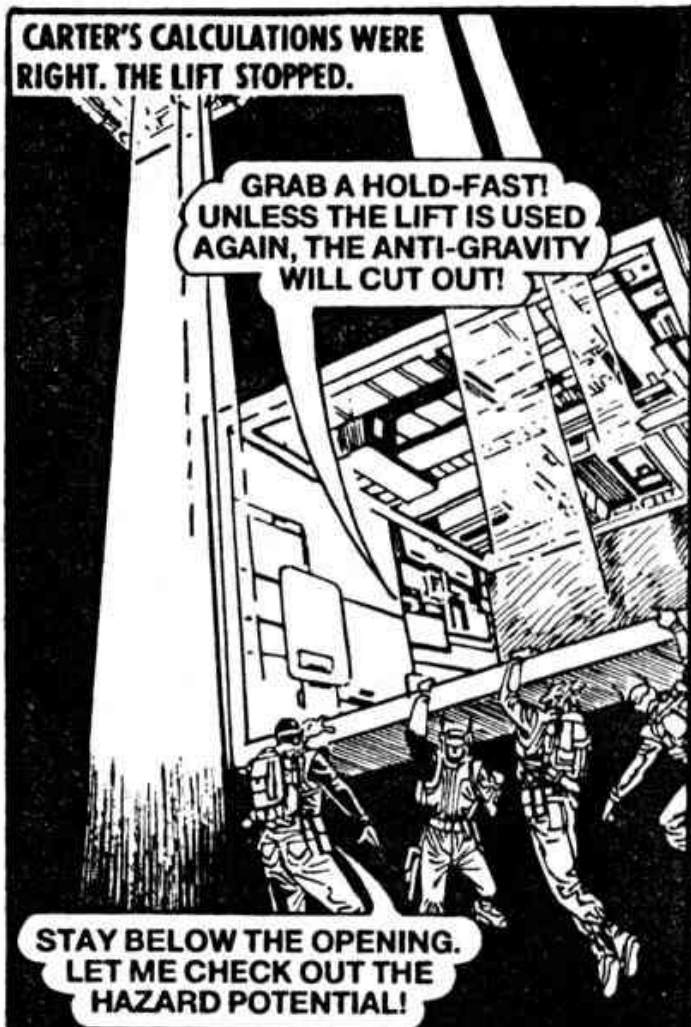


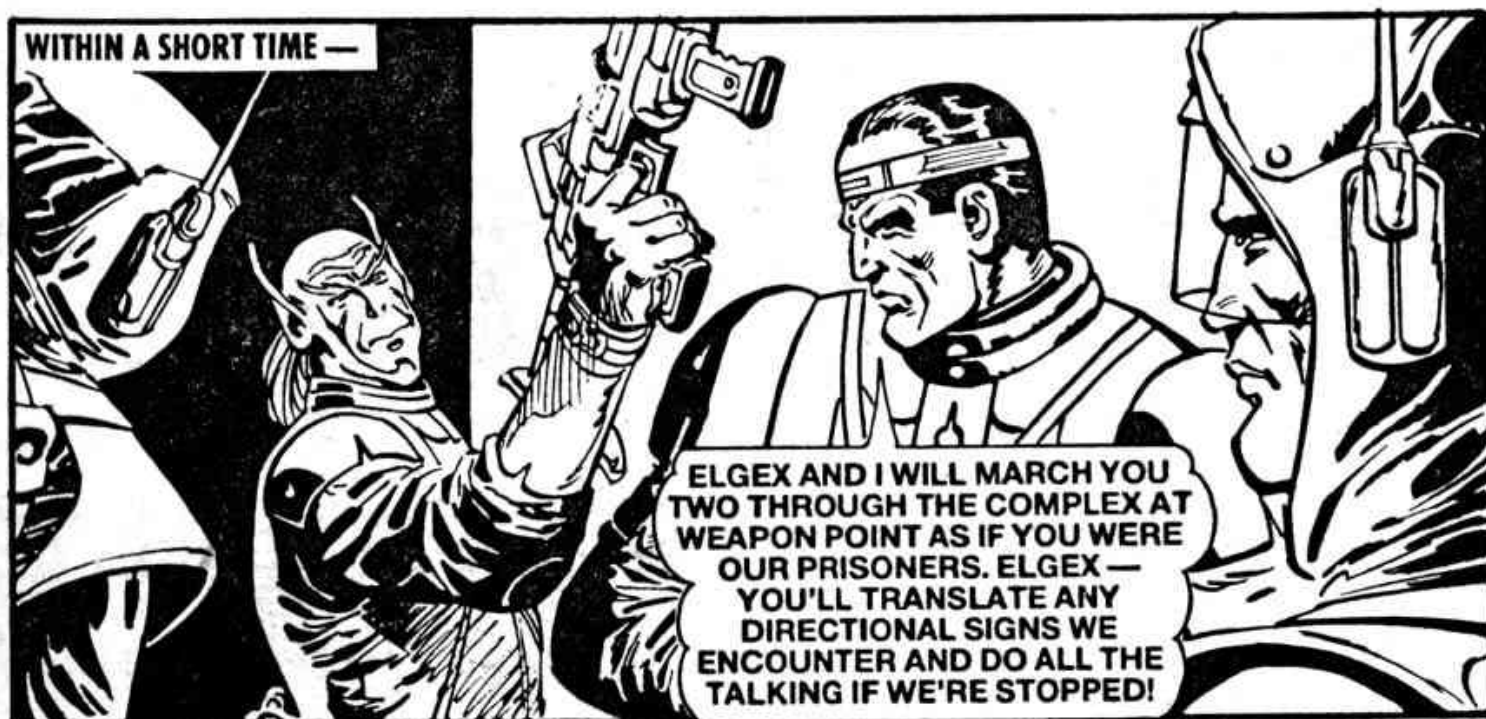
LIGHTS! AND — WE'RE
— WE'RE FLOATING!
SOMEONE'S USING THE
LIFT — IT'S AN ANTI-
GRAV SHAFT!



AND IT'S COMING
DOWN — AT SPEED!







THE UNIFORMS BELONG TO
REGULAR SARTOG TROOPS.
THIS PLACE MAY BE
SECRET, BUT IT SEEMS TO
ME THE SARTOG
GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND IT.



THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY
ALL THOSE SARTOG
GUARDS ARE IN THE
VICINITY. BUT WHAT ARE
THEY UP TO HERE?



TRANSLATE, ELGEX. WHERE
DO THESE SIGNS POINT TO?

BOTTOM RIGHT COULD
BE OF USE. IT
INDICATES THE PROBE-
SPHERE BAY. TOP LEFT
INDICATES WHAT THEY
CALL THE
EXPERIMENTAL
CHAMBER.

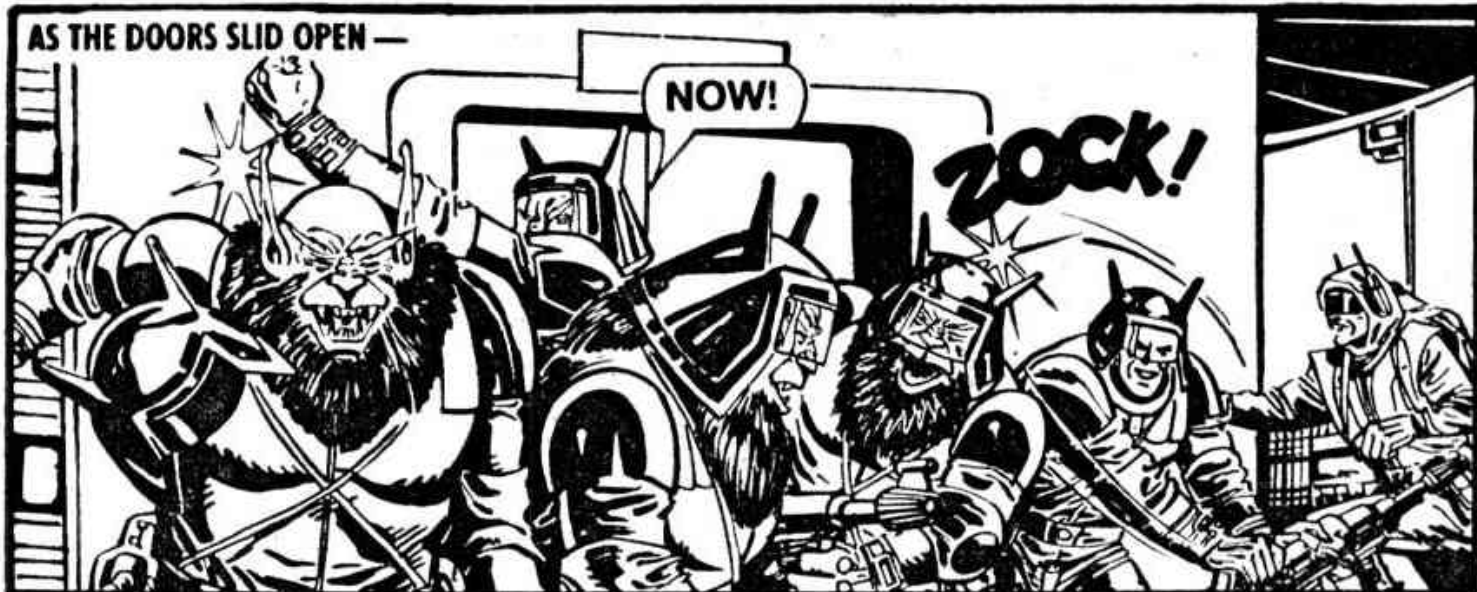
THAT'LL BE WHAT WE
WANT. FOLLOW THAT!



AS THE DOORS SLID OPEN —

NOW!

ROCK!



VARLEY! TORSER! GRAB TWO OF THE OUTFITS. SHOVE THE BODIES INTO THE VEHICLE. WE'LL REPEAT THE DOOR-OPENING PROCEDURE WITH THE DISC — LOOKS LIKE A SIMPLE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM.

ONCE VARLEY AND TORSER HAD MADE THEIR QUICK CHANGE —



NOT WORKING! WHY NOT? IT WORKED FOR THE OTHER GUARD. HE SALUTED AND SLAPPED THE DISC AGAINST THAT PANEL.

MAYBE IT WASN'T A SALUTE. HAUL OUT ONE OF THOSE BODIES!





WHAT'S HAPPENING, TORSEN?

I — I'M NOT SURE. WHATEVER THEY'RE AIMING AT THAT POOR DEVIL IS WORKED FROM AN INFO-CORE POD INSERTED INTO A COMPUTERISED PROJECTOR ...



BY THE RED MOON! IT CAN'T BE. I'VE HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY BUT NEVER THOUGHT —

WHAT DID THEY DO TO HIM, HE — HE LOOKED LIKE HE'D BEEN TURNED TO GLASS — OR DRIED CLAY!

ALL LIFE FORMS DEPEND UPON LIQUIDS, CARTER. THAT WEAPON ALTERS THE ATOMIC MAKE-UP OF ANY LIQUID. DO YOU REALISE THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT?

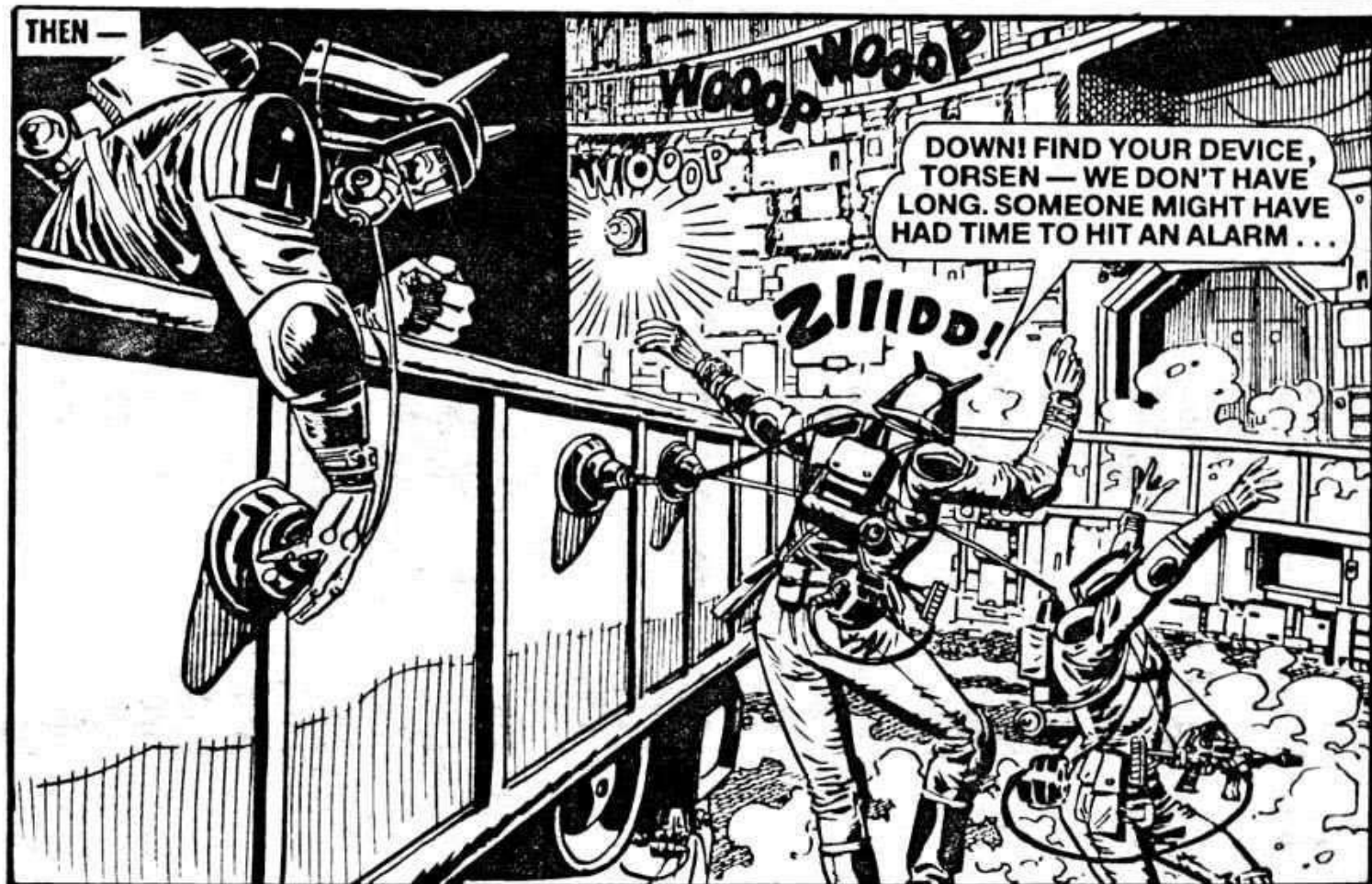
ONLY TOO WELL, TORSEN ...

THAT WEAPON TURNED ON A CITY OR A PLANET WOULD NOT ONLY KILL ANYONE EXPOSED TO IT, BUT ALL PLANTS WOULD FRAGMENT, VEHICLES SEIZE-UP, AND ANYONE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IN A SHELTER WOULD END UP STARVING AND THIRSTING TO DEATH... ONLY BUILDINGS WOULD REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED.

WITH THIS WEAPON SARTOG COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE. WE'RE

NO! WAIT. WE MUST HAVE THAT DEVICE, CARTER. I CAN'T GO BACK WITHOUT IT. IT'S A BREAKTHROUGH THAT ALL SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR. WITHOUT THAT WE CAN'T WORK ON A COUNTER-WEAPON IF IT WERE EVER USED AGAINST US.

RIGHT! THEN WE HIT THEM! MASK UP AND WE'LL DROP IN USING THE ARACHNID-PACKS.

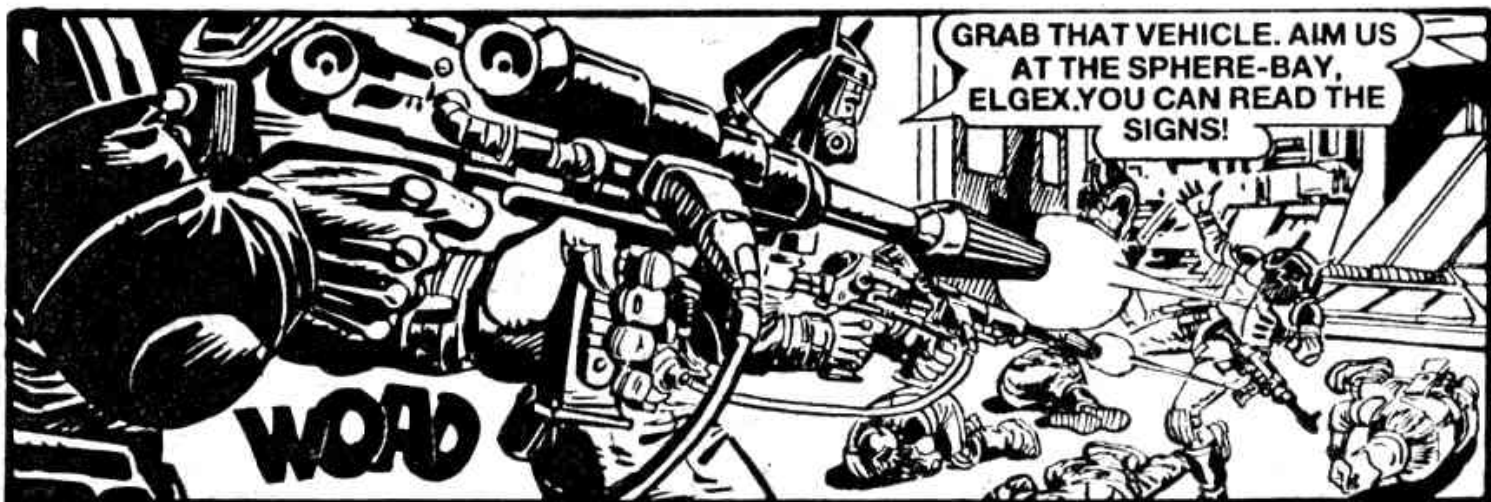


VARLEY! IF THEY TRY
TO SEAL US INTO THIS
CHAMBER, CAN YOU
HANDLE IT?

NO PROBLEM!

THAT WILL OPEN THE
DOORS — AND THEY'LL
STAY OPEN!





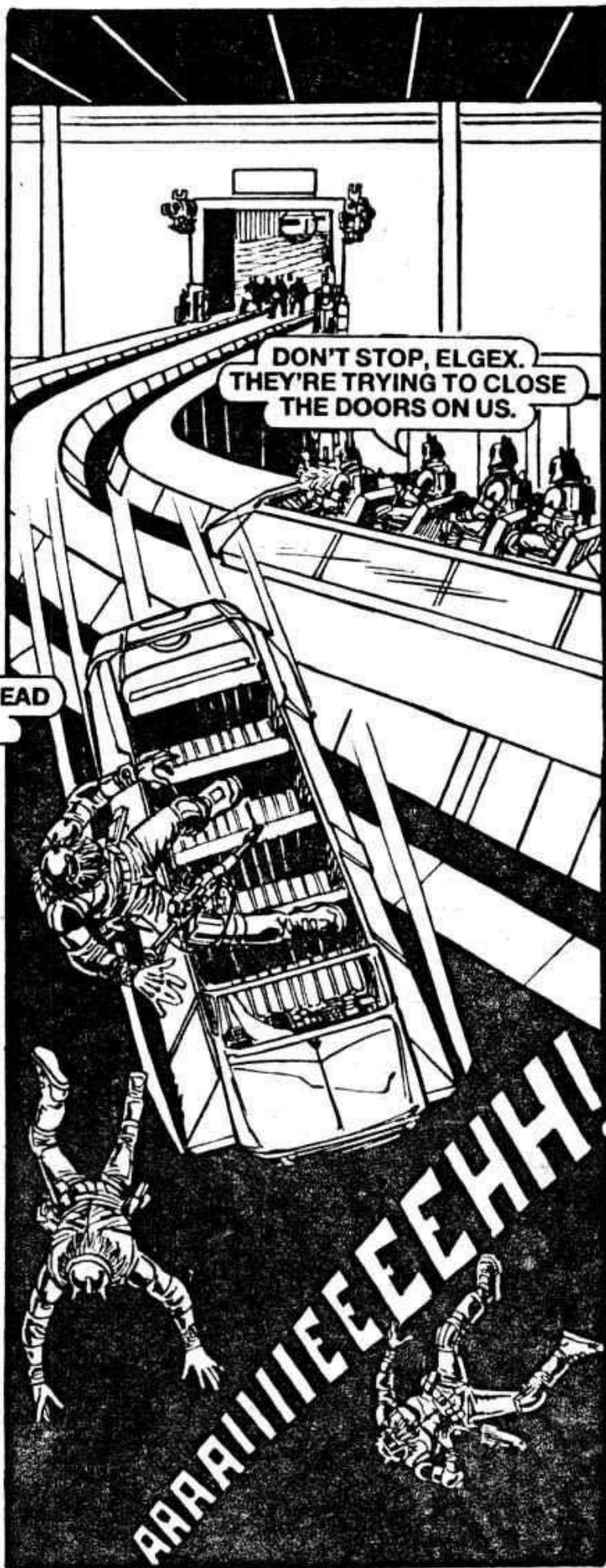
FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS, ELGEX TOOK THEM THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF CORRIDORS AT BREAK-NECK SPEED.



SPHERE-BAY UP AHEAD
— OH, NOO!!!



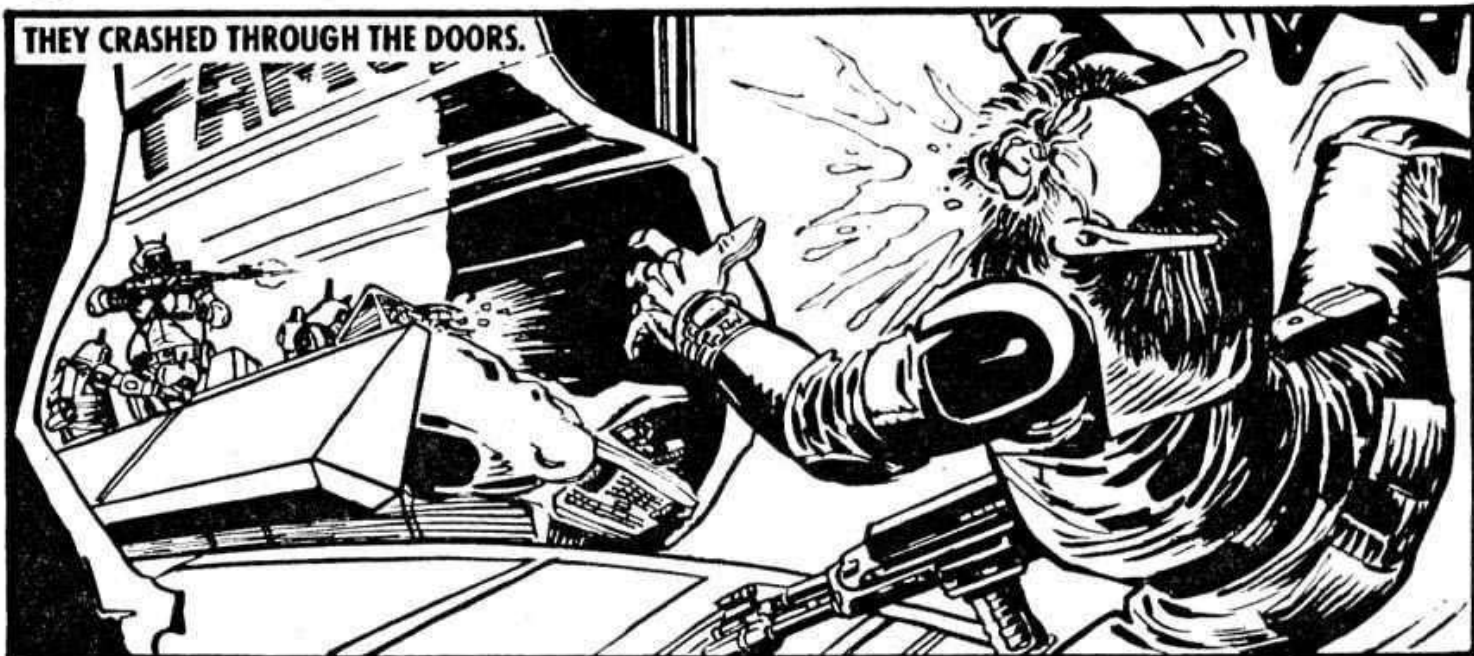
KEEP GOING! I'LL TAKE
'EM!



DON'T STOP, ELGEX.
THEY'RE TRYING TO CLOSE
THE DOORS ON US.

AAAAIIIEEEHHH!

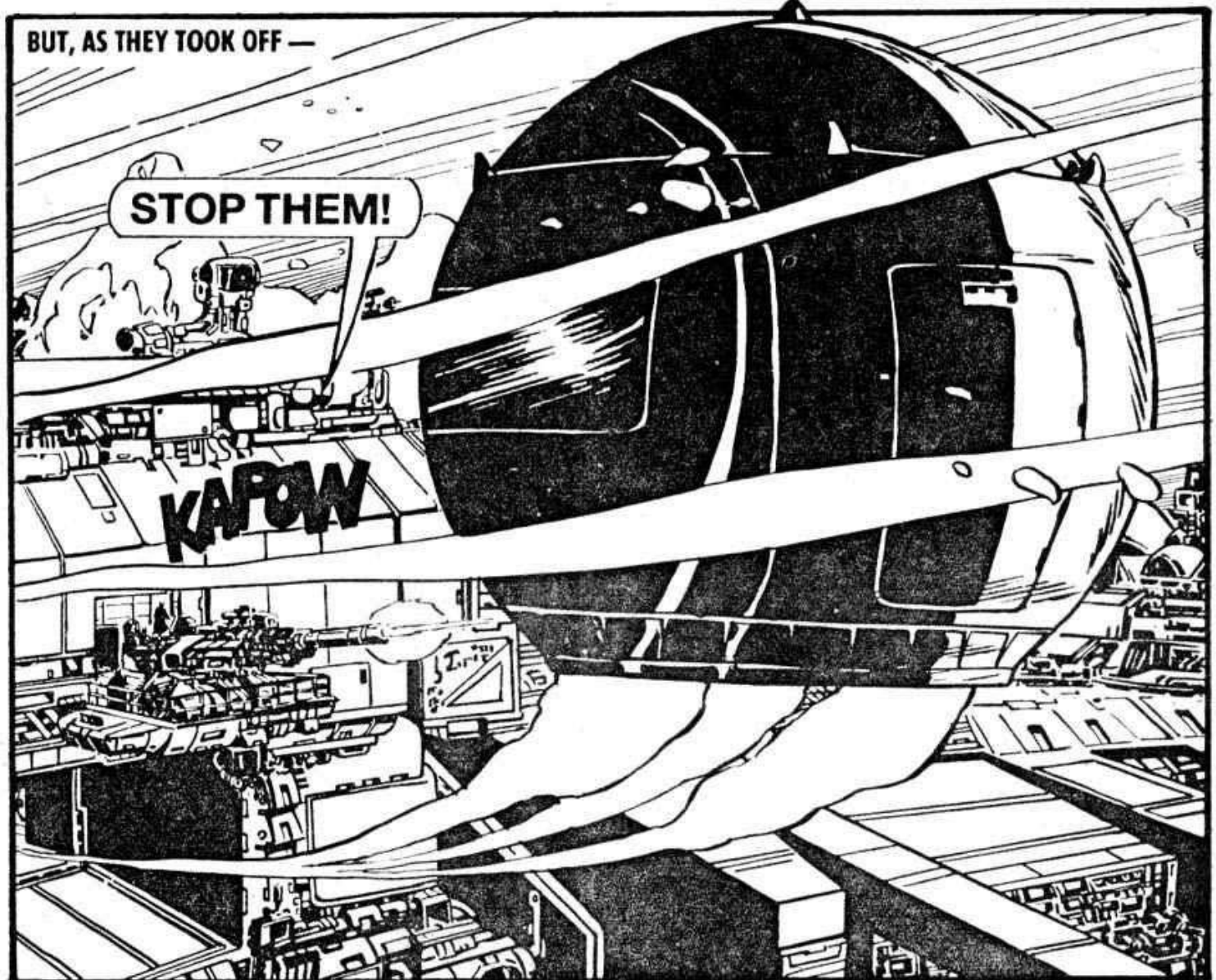
THEY CRASHED THROUGH THE DOORS.



BUT ABOVE THEM —

THEY'VE CRASHED THE SPHERE-BAY — HIT THEM IF THEY TRY TO LAUNCH!







CARTER UNLEASHED A BARRAGE OF LASER FIRE AT THE CANNON.



WE'RE LOSING PRESSURE! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!



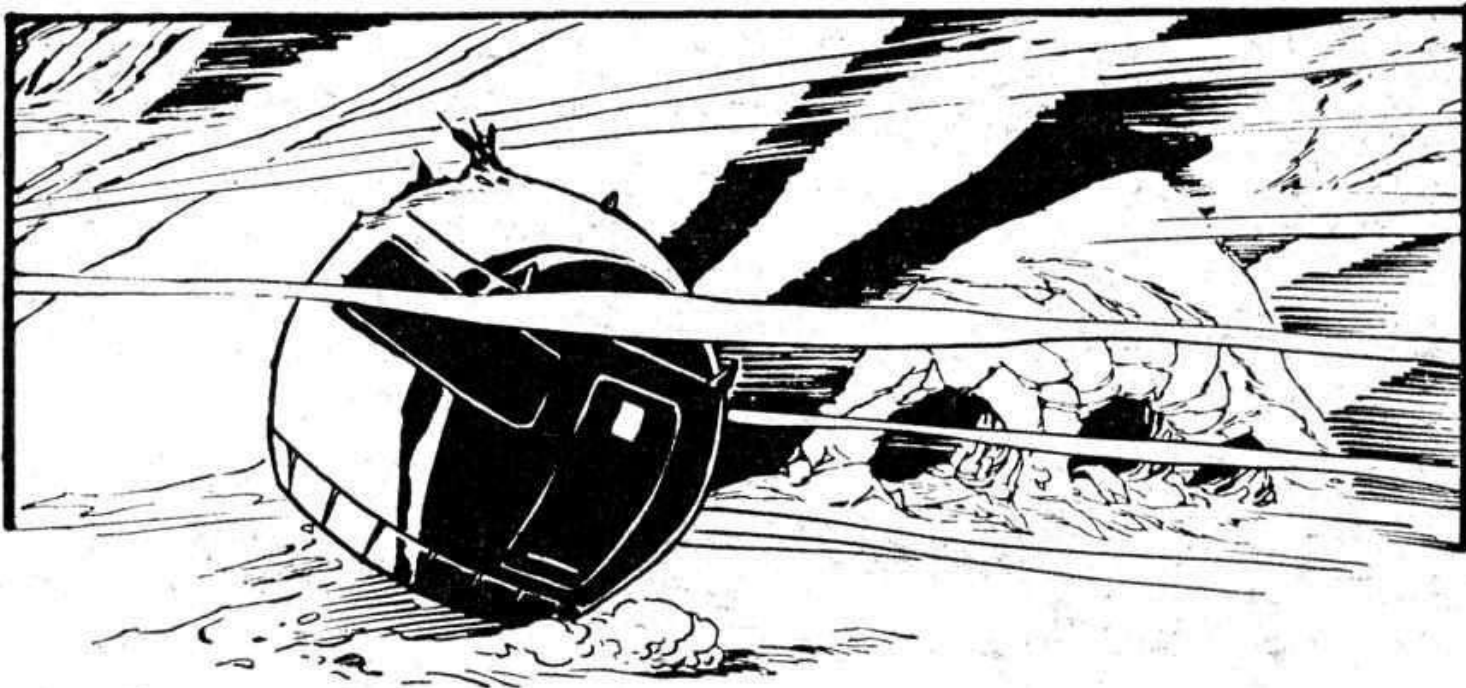
IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR THEM TO REGROUP. TAKE US AS FAR AS YOU CAN.

DON'T DIE, ELGEX. YOU CAN'T.









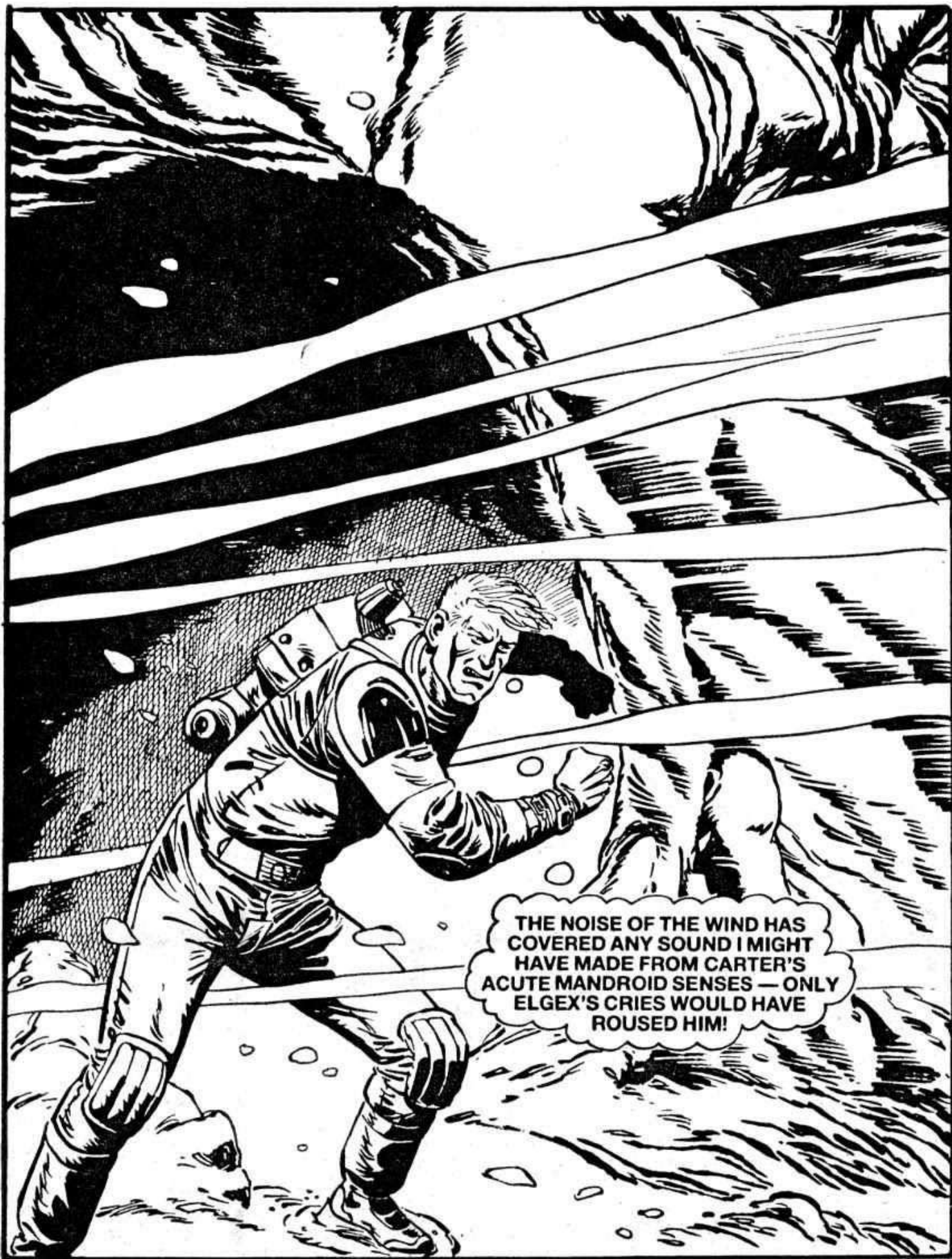


MUCH LATER —

THIS DEVICE IS A GOLDMINE. JUST ABOUT ANY GOVERNMENT IN THE GALAXY WILL BID FOR IT, AND THE SHUTTLE IS WAITING FOR ME IN THAT CAVERN. I CAN MEET THE PICK-UP SHIP AND LEAVE THE REST OF THEM STRANDED — SAY THEY WERE ALL KILLED. NO ONE NEED EVER KNOW THE TRUTH...

TORSEN, IS VARLEY AWAKE ... GOT TO SPEAK TO HIM!

NO — HE'S ASLEEP — AND SO WILL YOU BE IN A MINUTE.



THE NOISE OF THE WIND HAS COVERED ANY SOUND I MIGHT HAVE MADE FROM CARTER'S ACUTE MANDROID SENSES — ONLY ELGEX'S CRIES WOULD HAVE ROUSED HIM!

BUT, CARTER'S ENGINEERED SIXTH SENSE HAD ALERTED HIM TO SOMETHING. ONLY MICRO-PULSES LATER, HIS EYES SNAPPED OPEN.

VARLEY!
WHERE'S TORSER?

WHA —? I-I
DON'T KNOW ...

ELGEX! HE — HE'S DEAD!
TORSER MUST HAVE
KILLED HIM!

IT'S THAT DEVICE! THE
TEMPTATION WAS TOO
MUCH FOR HIM. HE'LL BE
HEADING FOR THE
SHUTTLE. MOVE, VARLEY!
HE HAS TO BE STOPPED OR
WE'RE STRANDED —
SITTING-DUCKS FOR THE
SATS!

AT THE SECURITY SECTION —

STORM CONDITION IS EASING!
ALERT ALL AVAILABLE SPHERES!



MEANWHILE CARTER AND VARLEY
MADE A SIGHTING.

THERE, CARTER! IT'S HIM! I'LL
KILL HIM — WITH MY BARE
HANDS.



LEAVE HIM
TO ME!

BUT VARLEY WASN'T LISTENING!

**NO, VARLEY! GET
OUT OF THE WAY!**

**OH, NO! THEY —
THEY'RE AFTER ME!**

**PROBES! THOSE FOOLS
WILL BE SPOTTED!**

THEN —

NO! NOOOOO!



CARTER, UNSEEN BY THE SPHERE,
OPENED FIRE AT THE ICE FACE.



JUST AS HE HOPED, THE
ICE FACE COLLAPSED.

RUMBLA O O M B R M

IT IS FINISHED! NO ONE CAN
SURVIVE THAT AVALANCHE.
THEY'LL BE AT THE BOTTOM
OF THAT CHASM FOR
ETERNITY! LET'S GET BACK.



LATER, ON THE SHUTTLE —

A MESSY JOB ... BUT
WHEN DID I EVER GET A
CLEAN ONE?

AFTER THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE MOTHER-SHIP —

... AND THAT'S THE STORY. OFF
THE RECORD, YOU KNEW THAT
DEVICE WAS BEING MADE AND
USED US TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.
IF YOU EVER USE ME LIKE THAT
AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU!
UNDERSTAND?

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE
THREE DEAD, DO YOU?

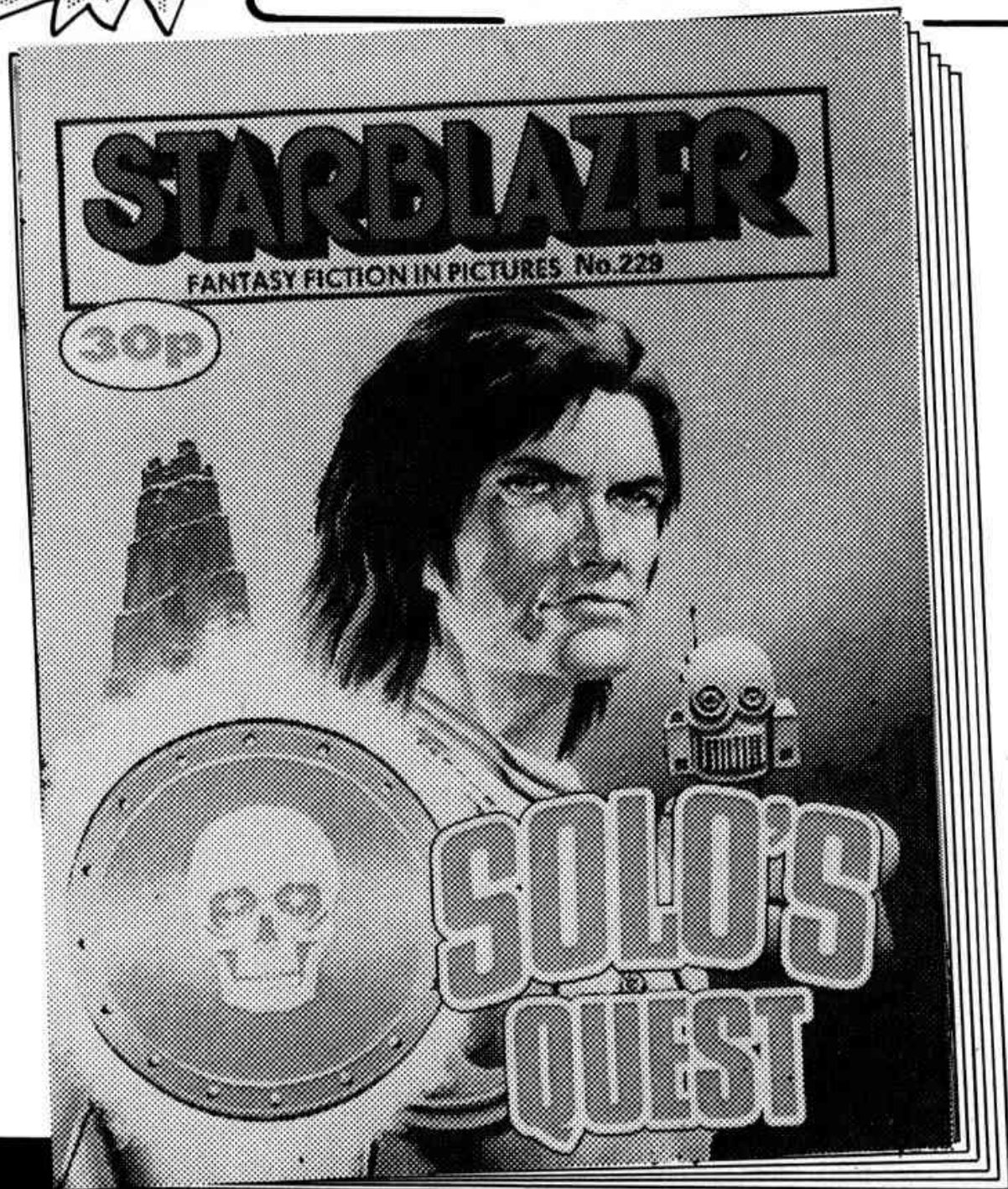
WOULD IT MATTER? YOU
DEEMED THEM, AND ME,
EXPENDABLE. WE DID OUR
JOB!

ONCE A MANDROID, ALWAYS A
MANDROID. IT ISN'T EASY BEING
ME . . . THE MAN WITH NO HEART.
AHEM . . . I REALLY MUST GET THE
LUBRICATION DUCT IN MY EYE
SEEN TO.



**DON'T
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S OTHER
ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**



NOW ON SALE

THE SECRET OF ICE MOUNTAIN

... A CARTER STORY ...

Carter just didn't care what people thought of him. People didn't like policemen anyway, and cops who weren't completely human were treated with contempt. And it was contempt that drove Carter on . . . complete contempt for the law-breaker. Ruthlessly this half man, half android crimebuster, scoured the galaxy for lawbreakers. But the time came, when he had to work with Crimos, suppress his contempt for them, or see Earth destroyed in one fell swoop.

